

Pedestrian Safety and Fact Information for Washington State

Pedestrian safety has become a major concern in recent years as the number of collisions continue to rise. The following information points out factors that are causing unsafe pedestrian environments, statistics on pedestrian collisions and fatalities, and solutions in achieving a more walkable community.



- Pedestrian collision rates are highest among children and youth.
- Citizens over the age of 65 have the highest pedestrian fatality rates.¹
- Friday is the most likely day for collisions to occur. The peak time for collisions is between 3-6 p.m.
- More pedestrian collisions occur November - February.
- Failure to yield and inattention are the two major contributing circumstances in collisions for both drivers and pedestrians.



Unsafe Pedestrian Environments are caused by but not limited to:²

- Insufficient or nonexistent, safe and accessible facilities for pedestrians.
- Lack of motorists and pedestrians regard for rules-of-the-road.
- Minimal enforcement of pedestrian/ motorists laws.
- Urban sprawl land use patterns.
- Lack of understanding of the importance of a communities' walkability.

Rules of the Road:

- Vehicles must stop if a pedestrian is in their half of the roadway.
- Vehicles must stop if a pedestrian is within one lane of their half of the roadway
- Pedestrians have the legal right-of-way at all intersections whether marked or unmarked

More on back ₩







- 39% of all trips of less than 1/2 mile are made on foot.
- Only one out of every five trips is work related.



Solutions for a more walkable community:3

SAFETY - People will only walk if they feel they can make the trip safely. This means:

- Motorists respect the rights of pedestrians.
- Speeding and alcohol laws are strictly enforced.
- Pedestrians understand what the risks are and how to avoid them.

ACCESSIBILITY - People will walk only if they can get to where they want to go on foot. This means:

- Traffic signals allow enough time for everyone to cross.
- A complete side walk system is available.
- Intersections that people can cross easily.
- Curb ramps for those with disabilities.
- Shops and businesses located within easy walking distance.

Safe Walking Tips:

- Wear light colored reflective clothing
- Cross at marked, well lit intersections
- Walk Facing Traffic
- Stop Look Left- Right- Left before crossing

Check out WSDOT's Pedestrian Website: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/hlrd/

Sources

- ¹ WSDOT Pedestrian Collision Data
- WQI Pedestrian Safety Team Recommendations
 Walkable Communities" by the Federal Highway Administration



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